National Policy on Curbing Pollution of Mega Rivers

4289. PROF. M. SANKRALINGAM . Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government have taken to cleanse Ganga in the recent past;

(b) whether Government have taken stringent penal action against those factories which are still polluting Ganga; and

(c) whether Government propose to prepare a national policy on curbing pollution of major rivers ?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, which was initiated in 1985 and has come to an end on 31-3-2000 tackled only 35 per cent of the total sewage generated presently in towns along the river. Ganga Action Plan Phase-II was launched in stages between April, 1993 and October, 1996 to tackle the balance pollution load reaching the Ganga (Main Stem) and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar. The sanctioned cost of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II is Rs. 1276.26 crore covering works in 95 towns along these rivers. These works are under implementation.

(b) Out of 187 identified grossly polluting industries along Ganga, effluent treatment plants are operating satisfactorily in 112 units, 31 units are closed and in 44 units effluent treatment plants are not operating satisfactorily which are facing action under the environmental law.

(c) A National River Conservation Plan which includes the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II is already under implementation to improve the water quality in 22 major rivers in 14 States covering pollution abatement works in 141 towns.

Benefits of Ganga Action Plan

4290. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what have been the benefits of Ganga Action Plan so far;

(b) whether it has helped in curbing pollution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Ganga Action